GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 1923. Vol. II. No. 16.

1. South Rhodesia: A New British Dominion.
2. Lost: Thirteen Days.
3. Madrid: A Capital by Necessity.
4. Hong Kong: Britain's Pride of the East.
5. Walloons and Flemings: The Belgian Twins.

© *National Geographic Society.*

NATIVES SALAAMING IN FEAR AT FIRST SIGHT OF AIRPLANE. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 7, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

South Rhodesia: A New British Dominion

SOUTH RHODESIA, which has just become an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth of Nations, was expected to be a second Rand but has turned out a South African Kansas.

Previously South Rhodesia had a government like none other in the world. It discloses the only instance where a great corporation, the British South Africa Company, governs a vast and populous country in which a considerable white population is actively engaged in business, politics and farming. Hitherto and elsewhere that form of government has been reserved for native, and usually backward, peoples.

Freedom Automatically Comes Up

The country's decision for autonomy came up automatically under the charter granted by Victoria at the behest of Cecil Rhodes, which charter provided that at the end of 25 years, or at the end of any subsequent 10-year period, it might be renewed, altered or annulled. The quarter century expired in 1914, when it was reaffirmed. The 10-year period is about to end and South Rhodesia's request to join the family of British states has been approved.

It is hard to realize how far South Africa has emerged from a "dark continent" status; and South Rhodesia's rise has been kaleidoscopic. Should an airplane land you today at its metropolis, Bulawayo, you might be invited to lecture about your trip before a group of gentlemen in evening dress. You would find the conveniences of a modern hostelry in Bulawayo's big hotel.

Pain in Head! Cut Off a Head!

Stroll down a broad, paved, electric-lighted street, however, and you would encounter many natives, peaceful and nearly nude. Less than 50 years ago the blood-thirsty Lobengula held sway here over the warlike Matabeles. This crochety chief had an idea that a pain could be cured by the sacrifice of a head from any chance passerby. And he seemed to have as many pains as a highly civilized hypochondriac.

With the finesse of a William Penn, Cecil Rhodes bought the mining rights of Lobengula's domain for a monthly pension, a thousand rifles and some ammunition. But the empire builder's most famous exploit occurred many years later in this, his namesake colony. After a native outbreak was put down by Lord Plumer and 800 soldiers the tribesmen took to the Matoppos mountains. Thither marched Rhodes, with only two companions, unarmed, and camped along the hills until he had interviewed every important chief and concluded a peace. For two months he remained, surrounded by fierce, blood-thirsty savages.

"The View of the World"

While in these mountains on that precarious mission Rhodes is said to have selected the site of his world-famous burial place, which he called "the view of the world." Between two great boulders is the mountain-top grave with the simple inscription, "Here Lie the Remains of Cecil John Rhodes."

A second grave, that of Dr. Jameson, recalls the occasion when this "slight,

© National Geographic Society.

FAMOUS ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK OF THE OLD TOWN HALL OF PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DATES FROM 1490 AND IS DECORATED WITH FIGURES OF CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES

(See Bulletin No. 2.)

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Lost: Thirteen Days

ON OCTOBER 13 some millions of Christians, members of the Greek Orthodox church, lost thirteen perfectly good days. By doing so they also surrendered a heritage of their ancestors dating back to 46 B. C. and corrected a mistake made by Julius Caesar.

If the whole Christian world were required to sacrifice thirteen days, the banking business would be disrupted, courts would be flooded with contract cases, questions of insurance and interest would irritate people for years. Discussion and argument attendant upon the change would make the debates arising over daylight saving appear as trivial as discussions of whether the world is round or flat. In fact when England, in 1750, corrected the same calendar error the Greek Orthodox church has now corrected and lost 11 days, mobs thronged through the streets of London shouting "Give us back our eleven days."

When Winter Came Too Early

Julius Caesar, dominant figure of Roman civilization must, however, be credited with good intentions. It is not his fault that the millions of members of the Greek Orthodox church had to take a leap to get in step with the world. Along about 47 B. C., due to politics and manipulation, the Roman official calendar had mid-winter coming in the fall. This roused great Caesar's indignation so he engaged Sosigenes, an Egyptian, to make a new model which was brought out in 46 B. C. Sosigenes did a fairly scientific piece of work considering the astronomical instruments available in his day, but he missed calculating the right length of the year by 11 minutes and 14 seconds, a small difference, indeed, but it amounts to a day in 128 years.

Caesar ruled with a strong hand and he saw to it that his new calendar was used all over the Roman Empire. Because of the error, however, the equinoxes kept slipping back until in the century 1500 they fell on the eleventh of the month instead of on the twenty-fifth where Caesar put them. Pope Gregory decided this could not be, so he once more revised the calendar, dropping out an additional new year in every century except those whose first two figures are divisible by four.

When We Will Gain a Day

Thus 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 will be. But woe to us, even Pope Gregory was not right, since he missed the exact length of the year by 26 seconds which will make us one day ahead of time by the year 3325. This must be corrected, but it is not exactly an immediate problem. In May, 1923, prelates of the Greek Orthodox Church, meeting in Constantinople, decided to accept the Gregorian calendar. Only the Ruthenians in the Carpathian mountains and the Ukraine still cling to the Julian calendar. All other Christian peoples use the Gregorian standard.

Back of the cold figures of the calendar on the wall are some very human

UMI

bald, mild little man" led his heroic handful of men against the Matabeles at Bulawayo. There the savage horde made their last stand after a series of forays against settlers. Jameson wired Rhodes for advice and got the laconic reply, "Read Luke, fourteen, thirty-one."

Jameson sent for a missionary Bible and found this injunction, "Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he may be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand." Jameson wired back, in substance, "All right, I have read it," and then planted the British flag firmly in Bulawayo and crushed Lobengula's power.

Everybody knows, in an academic way, of South Rhodesia's great natural spectacle, the Victoria Falls. Glibly reciting its dimensions—a mile wide and from 250 to nearly 350 feet high—means little. The imaginative person might stand on Capitol Hill, in Washington, look at the Capitol's dome and try to visualize a sheet of water higher than that dome extending all the way from the Capitol, down Pennsylvania Avenue, to the Post Office Department Building.

Bridge Is a Publicity Device

Even then he would miss the roar audible ten miles away and the feel of the mist which carries almost as far. And the spectacle of this great water volume hurtling off through a 100-foot outlet into a yawning gorge that winds away for 40 miles. And the bridge over this gorge at nearly 400 feet above the water level.

The many-sided Cecil Rhodes had an eye for publicity. It was he who insisted that the bridge should be built near enough to the falls so the spray would wet the cars as trains rolled by. Engineers told him "no," as they told Harriman when he proposed his "wild scheme" of a bridge across Great Salt Lake. Both Rhodes and Harriman had their way.

But in his hope for South Rhodesia's future Rhodes was mistaken. The colony prospered but not from the mines, as Rhodes expected. Instead farming and grazing lands were magnets which drew the 33,000 white men to this remote area; enough, even with nearly 800,000 natives, to be given the reins of government.

Bulletin No. 1, November 12, 1923.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send ..... copies of the Geographic News Bulletin for the school year beginning with the next issue, for classroom use, to

Name .....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City ..... State.....

I am a teacher in..... school .....grade

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Madrid: A Capital by Necessity

MADRID, capital of Spain, which has witnessed much history, recently received a new premier, General Rivera. The premier led a revolution in Barcelona. King Alphonso in recognition of the rise of a new dominant party named him to head the government.

While Madrid was not "made from the whole cloth" as Canberra, the new capital of Australia, is being fashioned, in a way it is as truly an artificial capital. Physically, the rather bleak table-land on which Madrid is situated had little to commend it as a site for a capital or a great city save the fact that it is almost the exact geographical center of Spain. But it was political pressure that really pushed the Spanish court to the former Moorish village of Madjrit; because the jealousy of each other felt by the Castilians, the Aragonese, the people of Toledo and Seville, and all the other groups would not permit the selection of an existing city of importance when Spain became united.

Site Like Those in American West

Picture a bare plateau in the semiarid American West, an insignificant stream several hundred feet below its crest, and its top and sides deeply carved by erosion, forming "arroyos"—the beds of torrents formed quickly in the rainy season, but usually dry. Madrid must have been much like this when the Spanish, in their fight to redeem the "Spain irredenta" of those days captured the place from the Moors in 1083. Castilian monarchs lived in the unimportant Madrid off and on for several hundred years, but it was first made the seat of the government of united Spain in 1560. It is thus one of the youngest of the great cities and capitals of Europe.

The smallness of Madrid when Philip II made it the Spanish capital brought about the institution of a queer tax from which flowed queer results. It was decreed that all persons possessing houses above a certain size must take in as guests courtiers and nobles who attended the court. The canny Spaniards who carried on any building operations took care to build houses just short of the mark. They were termed "spite houses" by the courtiers, and the Madrid of a few hundred years ago became full of them.

French Once Held City

The small houses naturally did not bring beauty to old Madrid. In addition the town was poorly cleaned and even in the middle of the eighteenth century had the reputation of being one of the dirtiest capitals in Europe. The Bourbons early in the eighteenth century began to build palaces and public buildings, however, and the French, during the brief hold which they had in Madrid at the height of Napoleon's power, started a number of improvements. The network of railroads which covered Spain during the nineteenth century, with Madrid as their focus, gave the capital its greatest impetus.

Manufacture, trade, wealth and population have come in the wake of the railroads. The population has passed well beyond the 650,000 mark and is

UMI

stories. Few people realize that the Christian world annually celebrates the whim of an ancient Roman Emperor. Our modern indifference to the honor he insisted upon must hurt his feelings terribly if his ghost is in tune with the world. Caesar, it seems, had an orderly mind, and planned to alternate the long and short months, the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh months having 31 days with the others, February excepted, having 30. But when Augustus, for whom August is named, heard that his month was to be a day shorter than July, the month named for Julius Caesar, he felt insulted and as a result the alternation originally planned was readjusted. One day accordingly was taken from February and given to August; and in order that three months of thirty-one days might not come together, September and November were reduced to thirty days, and thirty-one was given to October and December.

A Year of 445 Days

Before Caesar, the Roman calendar had been intrusted to the pontiffs for correction, but for reasons of their own and often for political reasons, they shortened or lengthened a month. Through ignorance and deliberate changes the Roman calendar had finally become three months ahead of sun time. When the famous conqueror had his calendar finally prepared he ordered that the three months should be inserted into that current year so the new calendar could begin exactly on January 1. Therefore the year 47 B. C. is the longest on record in the Christian calendar; it had 445 days.

Bulletin No. 2, November 12, 1923.

© National Geographic Society.

THE EVER-FAITHFUL DOG DOES DUTY FOR THE HORSE IN BELGIUM

The methods of attaching the dogs to the cart are peculiar—one in the shafts, the others hitched on at various points. (See Bulletin No. 5.)

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Hong Kong: Britain's Pride of the East

ANNOUNCEMENT that Great Britain and China are negotiating for the withdrawal of the British naval base at Weihaiwei on the Shantung peninsula calls attention to the fact that Hong Kong will then be the last British possesion in China. Hong Kong, the show colony of Great Britain in the Orient, and world port where celebrities and foreign war craft arrive so frequently that the din of officials salutes is almost constantly echoing from the granite peaks, is next to the oldest and in many ways the model foreign-owned community in China.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no city of Hong Kong. That well-known name belongs to an island of 32 square miles extent which lies off the south coast of China, and has been applied as well to the wonderful harbor between the island and the mainland. The city of half a million inhabitants which is the capital of the island and the colony is officially Victoria. But the name is seldom heard. To the islanders the beautiful terraced town is merely "the city."

Social Climbs Are Hill Climbs

The city reveals the stratification due to wealth and social position in a striking way. Aside from a cable tramway which carries the visitor to "The Peak," 1,200 feet above the pond harbor with its toy ships from many lands, the common means of reaching the higher levels is in chairs carried by two or four coolies. Motor roads are being extended so that twentieth century power can be used to some extent, but most of the streets and stairways, which are cut in the varied facade of the hillside with its buildings of many types of architecture, are open only to foot traffic. In the steamy heat of Hong Kong, hill climbing is not counted as a sport by Anglo-Saxons, so that many of the 15,000 foreigners mount the steep slopes in chairs carried by yellow men.

However much the American objects to paying about three cents or more a mile for transportation, such a rate is very low compared with that charged by four chair bearers, and in Hong Kong the chairmen have advanced their rates to a degree which would make the Szechuan chair coolies regard them as public utilities profiteers. The higher the climb, the higher the cost; and the social climbers of Hong Kong fix their level according to their pocketbooks.

Along the teeming wharves, where the local Canton and China Coast boats tie up, the hue and cry of the dock workers alike proclaim the Chinese. A restricted portion of the water front is quite foreign and here one may observe the skipper of a fleet motor launch tossing his compatriot sampan oarsmen in powerful waves. But on both sides of this restricted area of modern buildings and world-famed trade names, the Chinese extend in imposing masses. Their picturesque shops bear ornamental signboards in black and gold lettering or horizontally lettered signs in English bearing cognomens strange and ambiguous enough to supply the jokesmiths of the West with comedy for years to come.

UMI

increasing rapidly. Fine streets, fine buildings, and wonderful parks and promenades have transformed the city's appearance in the last half century. In the parks and around the city many trees have been planted. They have done away with the aspect of barrenness and have even mitigated to some extent the severity of the hot summer weather.

Has World-Famous Picture Gallery

To the east, less than half a mile from the city's heart—the Puerta del Sol, where ten streets meet—is the famous Prado and the "Paseos," or promenades, that extend it to the northward and the southward. These great wide spaces and boulevards, with rows of from five to eight trees in their center, form one of the most handsome promenades and "show streets" in the world.

Across the space of the Prado is the renowned "Museo del Prado"—often itself called merely "The Prado"—a picture gallery which houses one of the world's most wonderful collections of the paintings of the masters. It undoubtedly rivals the collection in the Louvre, and is claimed by Spaniards to surpass it. The Prado gallery is particularly famous for its group of the best works of the great Spanish master, Velazquez, who lived and worked in Madrid. Statues to Velazquez and to other famous Madrilenos, Cervantes, and the Spanish Shakespeare, Calderon de la Barca, adorn the parks.

A mile or more to the northeast of the Prado, across the city's most extensive park, "The Retreat," is what may be considered the antithesis of the world-famous picture gallery. It is a great circular amphitheater, a somewhat smaller Roman Colosseum. It is the "Plaza de Toros"—the bull ring—in which 14,000 Madrilenos gather on feast days to see their favorite matadores kill bull after bull.

© *National Geographic Society.*

CHINESE BLACKSMITHS TAKE NO CHANCES WHEN SHOEING HORSES

This arrangement permits the work at hand to be dispatched with greatest ease and least danger. (See Bulletin No. 4, and "The Story of the Horse" in the National Geographic Magazine, November, 1923.)

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Walloons and Flemings: The Belgian Twins

WHILE Switzerland has three languages, French, Italian and German, it is scarcely more unusual than Belgium, where twin populations with loyalty to a single flag speak one language in the north and another in the south. Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, describes the two elements, the Walloons and the Flemings, of the brave little nation's population as follows:

The Kingdom of Belgium dates from 1830, when the seven Catholic provinces revolted from distasteful union with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. A spirit of independence, of resentment at injustice, of determination to maintain rights, has always animated this heroic people.

The ancient Belgae occupied all Gaul from north of the Seine and west of the Rhine. Rheims, Soissons, Amiens, and Beauvais perpetuate the names of the Remi, Suessiones, Ambiana, and Bellovaci, their warlike tribes who fought against Caesar.

The Belgians now comprise two main factors—the Walloons and the Flemings.

The Walloons, from a common Teutonic word meaning foreign, are found in southern Belgium, where are Liege and Namur upon the Meuse; in the French department of Nord, with its cities of Lille, Douai, Cambrai, and Valenciennes, and in a few Rhenish villages. They speak French and have a strong attachment to France.

The Flemings are more numerous and occupy the greater part of the kingdom and of the coast of Nord, with Dunkirk. They speak Flemish, a German dialect. Originally German in lineage, they are above all intensely national and have equalled the Walloons in courage and devotion. During the last war the Germans resorted to every artifice to alienate them from the Walloons, but without avail.

In 1910, of the 7,571,000 Belgians, 3,221,000 spoke only Flemish, 2,833,000 only French, and 871,000 both French and Flemish. The Belgian Government at first opposed official use of Flemish, but in 1878 it was made equal with French in the courts and administration and in 1883 in the schools. The Flemish provinces were made bi-lingual.

Full religious liberty is enjoyed. The great majority of the people are presumably Roman Catholic, but since 1891 no questions are asked at the census regarding communion or profession.

Sixteen years ago in his "Living Races of Europe," Hutchinson said: "Bravery, intelligence, and energy are strong as ever in the Belgians. They excel in the arts of peace, as formerly they were proficient in the arts of war. They now present an attractive picture of a prosperous, peaceable, and thoroughly comfortable little people.

UMI

Streets Run Into Stairways

Back from the water but parallel to it run Des Voeux Road and Queen's Road, the main business thoroughfares, flanking which is a fairly level section of the city. But back a few blocks, steep stairways close the ends of most of the transverse streets and the hidden automobile roads twist and turn like a railway track trying to make the grade that tops a continental divide.

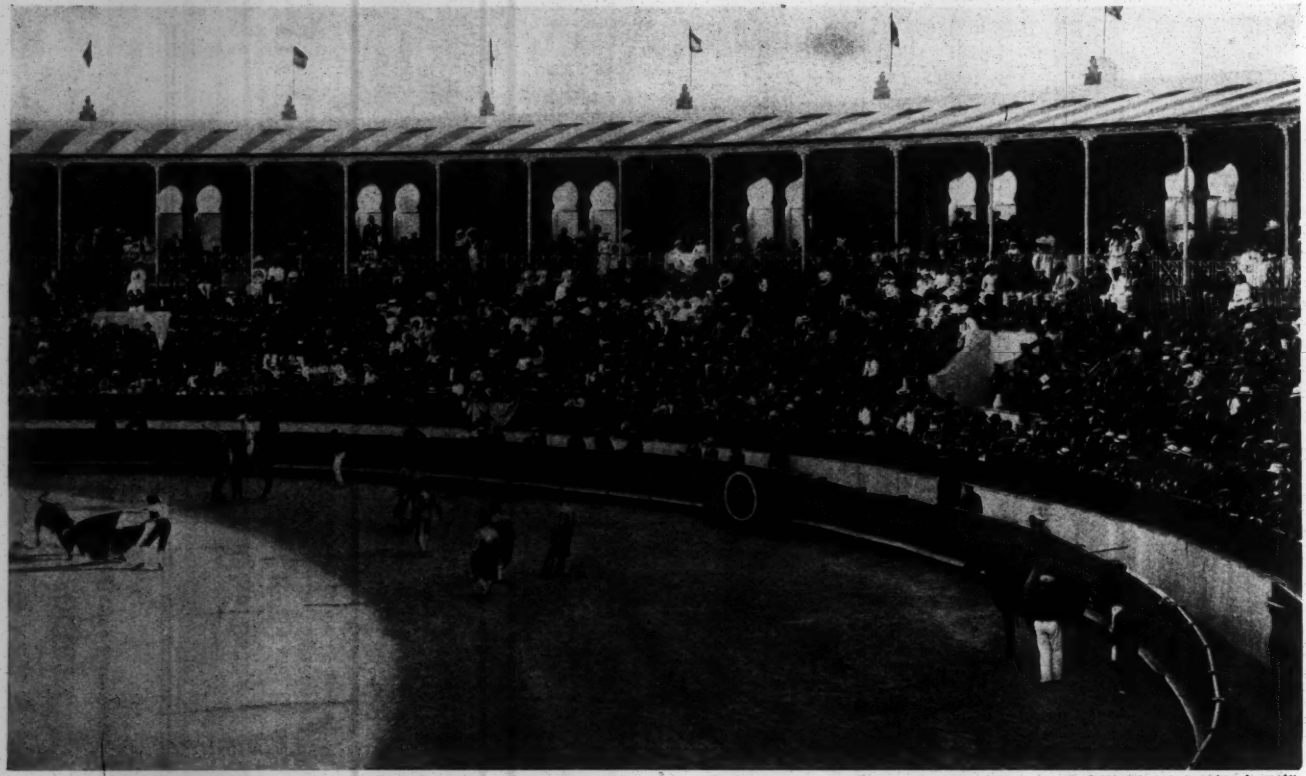
Suddenly one realizes that he has left the region where the Chinese are inhabitants and entered the rarified atmosphere of a superior social world. Quiet has displaced the babel of strange voices which cause the business section to hum and buzz with life. The same effect that is accomplished in most cities of moving out is here attained by moving up. The residential section looks down upon the business center, which in Hong Kong is really not a business center at all but a business level.

Here one finds a beautiful botanical garden, several churches, and numerous educational institutions including Hong Kong University, whose technical courses have won it a high reputation. Fine homes, which from the water seem to rise ghat-like from the lower levels but which are actually surrounded by lovely gardens, mark this altitude and it is here that the Governor of Hong Kong has his official residence.

Peak of Social Alps

But even here there are too many homes to make any group distinctive and it is the Governor's summer villa, high up on a small plateau near the top of the peak from which wireless signals are sent that is the real height of the social Alps. Around the island there runs a fine motor road 22 miles long which carries the visitor away from the world-famed harbor and its booming salutes. Ten square miles of excellent anchorage make this the parking place for many a typhoon-tossed ship in the storm season and sampans bob about on the water in a way that reveals the ancestry of the present boatmen and reminds one of the time when this splendid city and port was an almost barren island with tiny fishing villages strung along its shores. Recently there has been developed a beautiful resort at Repulse Bay on the ocean side of Hong Kong island where the permanent society plays golf with transient tourists for whom the links were constructed.

Across from Hong Kong, on the Chinese mainland, is Kowloon and back from this, the terminus of the railway to Canton which will ultimately link Hong Kong with Peking, is the New Territory, comprising about 300 square miles, ceded to England for 99 years in 1898.



© National Geographic Society.

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SPOTS IN MADRID IS ITS ARENA WHERE BULLFIGHTING IS STILL PERMITTED ALTHOUGH THE TIDE OF OPINION IS RISING AGAINST THE SPORT.